

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 18944 020032Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 /035 W

-----025447 020037Z /66

O 010940Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8613

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 18944

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MUSLIM PEACE INITIATIVE

REF: STATE 285440

1. MELCHOR PRESENTLY OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND SCHEDULED TO RETURN DECEMBER 7. EMBASSY WILL DISCUSS WITH HIM APPROACH OUTLINED IN REFTEL AFTER HIS RETURN.

2. OUR INITIAL REACTION TO PEACE INITIATIVE OUTLINED BY SCHAEFFER AND MICKELWAIT IS THAT IT WAS CONCEIVED WITH PERHAPS MORE HOPE THAN REALISM. KEY INDIVIDUAL IN SCHEME IS HASHIM SALAMAT, NUMBER TWO MAN IN MNLF HIERARCHY. ISSUES WHICH CONCERN SALAMAT, AS WELL AS MOST MUSLIMS, APPEAR TO BE NOT ECONOMIC BUT POLITICAL AND CULTURAL; OF PRIME IMPORTANCE IS FEAR OF ASSIMILATION INTO LARGER CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT A PEACE PROGRAM BASED ON ECONOMICS ALONE WOULD CONVINCE SALAMAT TO SPLIT WITH MISUARI AND USE HIS INFLUENCE TO WIND DOWN CONFLICT. GOP REACTION WOULD LIKELY BE POSITIVE. IT IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD GRANT POLITICAL CONCESSIONS, I.E., SOME FORM OF AUTONOMY ACCEPTABLE TO MUSLIMS, NEEDED TO PROVIDE TOTAL PACKAGE ACCEPTABLE TO MUSLIMS.

3. NONETHELESS, WE SEE NO HARM IN MICKELWAIT AND SCHAEFFER  
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PURSUING THEIR INITIATIVE IF THEY BELIEVE THERE IS SOME CHANCE OF SUCCESS.  
NEWSOM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PEACE, MOSLEMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770446-0658  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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